

**City of Chelsea**  
**Emergency Order Requiring the Wearing of Masks Indoors**  
**to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19**  
**November 30, 2021**

Pursuant to the declaration of a Modified Public Health Emergency issued May 28, 2021 by Governor Baker, and the declaration of a State of Emergency by the City of Chelsea on March 18, 2020, and in accordance with the statutory authority granted to the Chelsea Board of Health under the Massachusetts General Laws, including but not limited to M.G.L. Chapter 111, the Chelsea Board of Health hereby enacts the following EMERGENCY ORDER.

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, which is prevalent throughout the world, including the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, despite a significant reduction in deaths and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in Massachusetts and a high proportion of vaccinated residents in the Commonwealth relative to other states, COVID-19 cases are on an upward trajectory in Chelsea and neighboring communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the rise of new infections in Chelsea and the state corresponds with the emergence of the highly contagious Delta variant, now the dominant variant in the United States; and the existence potential new variants is of concern; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2021, the CDC recommended that everyone in areas of high or substantial COVID-19 transmission wear face coverings when in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status, and currently, Suffolk County had high transmission through 11/29/21; and

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health metrics indicate an increase in COVID-19 cases for the City of Chelsea in the last three weeks evident of an uptick of a surge; and

**WHEREAS**, that fully vaccinated individuals who become infected with COVID-19 can transmit the virus to others, masks are now one of the most effective available tools to mitigate the spread of the virus

**THEREFORE**, the following public health order shall be in effect for the city of Chelsea as follows:

1. All persons over the age of 2 years must wear a mask or face covering, such as fabric or surgical mask, covering the nose and mouth, while indoors in any public space, including but not limited to retail establishments, restaurants, bars, performance venues, social clubs, houses of worship, personal care and fitness establishments, event spaces, and municipal buildings.

2. Customers in indoor restaurants, bars, and dance venues may only remove face coverings when they are actively eating or drinking. Patrons ordering at a bar or standing at a bar while not actively eating or drinking must be masked. Guests must be masked when on an indoor dance floor.
3. This Order shall not apply when alone in a workplace or alone in a room with a closed door.
4. This Order shall not apply to outdoor dining, outdoor events, or otherwise to any outdoors activity.
5. This Order shall not apply to informal gatherings at private residences in which no compensation for use of the property is paid to the owner.
6. This Order shall not apply to performers, while performing, provided that they are at least six feet away from any customers.
7. This Order shall not apply to persons for whom a mask or face covering creates a health risk or is not safe, or to children under two years of age.

This Emergency Order shall be effective at 5 am on December 3, 2021 and remain in effect until lifted. This Order shall be enforced by Board of Health officials, Chelsea Police Officers and ISD Inspectors. Those individuals who fail to comply with this Order may face penalties, including fines.

Dated: December 1, 2021

  
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Flor Amaya, Designated Board of Health Agent